

AN ADDRESS BY ROGER DURBIN CELEBRATING THE STAMP UNVEILING, NOVEMBER 19, 1998

Mr. Vice-President, Mr. Postmaster General, General Woerner, thank you for allowing me to share this honor with you today.

It's a double honor for me to participate in a ceremony to unveil a stamp commemorating World War II. In 1979, I retired from the U.S. Postal Service after spending 32 years as a rural carrier in Berkeley, Ohio, near Toledo. I've been told that I am that last surviving member of branch 4408 of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

I am proud of my career as a letter carrier. But today, on the eve of Veteran's Day my thoughts are focused on a different uniform—one I wore in Europe in the 1940s. I was a member of the Tenth Armored Division and participated in the Battle of the Bulge, one of the costliest battles ever fought by Americans. I have memories of those cold bitter days that will be with me until I die.

One memory I wish to share with you is about the Battle for Metz. It was the first time Metz had been captured in 1,500 years. Three bridges had to be built to cross the Mozells River at Thionville, France, while the 4th and 90th Infantry established a bridgehead. They met a terrible resistance. During the night, civilians pointed out to the Germans where the Americans were sleeping. By morning, only one man was still alive from the German counter-attack. Later history called this attack the "Killing Fields of Kerling."

When daylight came, it was a terrible sight—a sight that cannot be forgotten by those who saw it. The American dead were neatly stacked in the ditches like cords of wood. The German dead were in their foxholes, eyes wide open still keeping their vigil of surveillance. The retreating Germans had body-trapped their dead. They had to be removed by our engineers. Right then I decided that those Germans were really trying to kill me.

"Saving Private Ryan" has brought attention to the horror of war to those born since World War II ended. The D-Day depicted was but one battle. Six hundred thousand American soldiers fought in the Battle of the Bulge. There were 91,000 casualties in just 30 days. The bitterness of that 1944 December cold cannot be forgotten. A wounded, bleeding soldier could be dead and frozen solid in just three hours. It was so cold that on Christmas night I had lain on top of the half-track transmission in an effort to get warm.

We moved back east of Metz after the battle had ended to draw new equipment and to get replacements. The replacements were eighteen and nineteen year old boys that had been home with families for Christmas dinner in 1944.

Those of us in the Tenth Armored Division who survived the Battle of the Bulge had the honor of being the first American soldiers from Patton's Third Army to cross the German border. The Tenth seized 450 towns and cities and earned more than 3,000 medals. But it was achieved at a terrible cost. When finished, the Tenth Armored had 8,381 killed, wounded, and missing casualties. There was a 78.5 percent turnover of personnel.

As a nation we must never forget that cost.

The stamp we are unveiling today commemorates World War II as one of the most significant events of the Twentieth Century. It is a fitting tribute for all who were involved in this struggle for a way of life, a world. This was the war that had the involvement of almost the entire population.

Three years ago I had the honor of joining President Clinton in dedicating a World War II Memorial site on the Mall between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. We sprinkled sacred soil from sixteen

overseas American cemeteries in which are buried thousands of Americans who were not as fortunate as I am. They never made it home.

Ground is to be broken in 2000 and the memorial dedicated in 2002. When Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur started the memorial legislation eleven years ago there were 13.5 million living World War II veterans. An average of 30,000 World War II veterans now die each month. Only 7 million remain of those alive twelve years ago. For most of those now remaining, this stamp will be the nation's tribute to their service.

LOPEZ FOODS, INC.—MBE
MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John Lopez, an Arizona native and Hispanic-American leader. Recently, Mr. Lopez' company, Lopez Foods, Inc., was named the 1999 National Minority Manufacturing Firm of the Year by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

After beginning his career as an owner-operator of several McDonald's restaurants, seven years ago, Mr. Lopez sold them and obtained controlling interest of the company that now bears his name: Lopez Foods, Inc. As one of the select few beef and pork suppliers for McDonald's restaurants, this Oklahoma City company plays a vital role in the success of more than 25,000 McDonald's restaurants.

As the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Lopez Foods, Mr. Lopez has guided his company to great success. Under Mr. Lopez' leadership, this firm has steadily expanded their workforce diversity program. As a result, currently, nearly 55 percent of Lopez Foods employees are minorities. Because of his efforts, first as a McDonald's owner-operator, and now as the head of Lopez Foods, Mr. Lopez was selected by the National Hispanic Employee's Association as its 1997 Entrepreneur of the Year.

Throughout his career, Mr. Lopez has worked tirelessly to promote economic progress for minorities well beyond his own firm. He is a member of several influential boards, including: the McDonald's Supplier Diversity Council, the Oklahoma City Latino Community Development Agency, the National Advisory Board of the Hispanic American Commitment to Educational Resources, and the National Minority Supplier Development Council.

I applaud the Commerce Department for recognizing the outstanding efforts of Mr. John Lopez, and for designating Lopez Foods, Inc. as its 1999 National Minority Manufacturing Firm of the Year. In closing, I commend this gentleman for all of his admirable accomplishments and societal contributions.

IN HONOR OF MS. SUSAN CORRIGAN, RECIPIENT OF THE UNITED WAY'S CONGRESSWOMAN MARY T. NORTON MEMORIAL AWARD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Susan Corrigan for winning the United Way's Congresswoman Mary T. Norton Memorial Award.

Initiated by the United Way of Hudson County in 1990, this award recognizes individuals who exhibit a deep commitment to community service as exemplified by Congresswoman Mary T. Norton during her 13 terms in the House of Representatives (1925–1950). A leader who championed thinking outside of the box, Congresswoman Norton advocated government action in areas, such as day care, fair employment practices, health care for veterans, and the inclusion of women in high levels of government service.

Ms. Corrigan, one of this year's award recipients, is the founder and President/CEO of Gifts In-Kind International, the world's leading charity in product philanthropy. Under her guidance, Gifts In-Kind International is now the 13th largest charity in the United States. And, as the organization has continued to have a very positive impact on the nonprofit sector, Ms. Corrigan has twice been named in The NonProfit Times' list of the Top 50 Most Influential Leaders in Philanthropy.

Because of her commitment to community service, Ms. Corrigan received the 1991 Cantor Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management from the Pacific Graduate School in Stanford, California, and the Samaritan Foundation's 1996 Humanitarian Partnership Award. In addition, she is a member of The Washington Center's Independent Sector Program Initiative Honorary Advisory Committee.

A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, Ms. Corrigan has served as Assistant to the President at United Way of America and is the author of several publications, including Establishing an In-Kind Program, The Business Sense of In-Kind Giving, and Employment Generating Services.

A well deserving award recipient who embodies the life work of Congresswoman Mary T. Norton, Ms. Corrigan has dedicated her life to community service. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Corrigan for all of her outstanding service to the community and for carrying on the work of Congresswoman Mary T. Norton.

YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS AND
PREVENTION WEEK

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support of H. Res. 286. The purpose of this legislation is to recognize the week of September 19–25, as Yellow Ribbon Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week.

This resolution is important to any person who has children, and to any family that has